

## J Street isn't pro-Israel

Your headline about J Street was misleading ("Head of liberal Jewish lobby pushes back against his critics," Sept. 18). It is not a liberal group. Its policies are radical left and out of step with every Zionist group in Israel and America. Every Zionist political party in Israel, including Meretz on the far left, supported Operation Cast Lead.

J Street is a threat to Israel. Their opposition to Israel's right to self-defense undermines Israel's very existence. Hamas, Iran as well as Hezbollah are real threats and J Street wants to tie Israel's hands and thus cause more terror. We listened to the appeasers with Oslo and we got the second intifada. Most Israelis now know it was a mistake and the peace talks are just that: talk.

J Street is living in the past. They are still looking for peace in our time. They may say they are pro-Israel but their actions say otherwise.

**Gil Stein** | Aptos

## New camp offers Jewish experience

In response to Rachel Freedenberg's column ("Camping is a religious experience in my book," Aug. 28), maybe the real question should be not if Jews camp, but whether they can practice

Judaism in the wilderness. Certainly the latter is less common.

But it doesn't have to be. There is a new outdoor Jewish camp that will debut next summer for entering 8th, 9th and 10th graders called "Ramah Outdoor Adventure in the Rockies." I'll be one of the counselors.

Honestly, though, I wasn't sure what to think about the program at first. I have done a fair amount of camping with my family, and backpacking with NOLS (National Outdoor Leadership School). I have gone to Israel, but have never really been Jewish in the outdoors.

This summer, the other counselors and I had an eight-day training session that included backpacking and first aid. Most magical though, was debating the different interpretations of Jewish law and tikkun olam (repairing the world) — all while drinking hot chocolate and noshing on kosher marshmallows.

Do Jews camp? Yes. But can Jews learn to practice Judaism while living in the outdoors? Absolutely.

**Elliot Krigel** | Palo Alto

## No coexistence with 'death cult'

Rabbis Rosen and Walt of "Jewish Fast for Gaza" ("Rabbis' Fast for Gaza can be good for Israel, too," Sept. 11) use highly selective

in ed that Earth able to

When Promised Land make no peace, utterly remove corruption and the right to remain. Canaanites compare Arabs, whose culture and bloodshed, and with highest good for their themselves into human beings.

Israel cannot coexist with death/suicide cult that appetite for Jewish blood. People who try to help themselves congratulating themselves with passion as they do so, are ir abetting the darkest forces and should not expect to ably for it.

**Martin Wasserman**

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